

pale green, the laminae delicate purplish one plant only. This has an atavistic appearance, and is quite without the beauty of normal *caerulea*.

These observations indicate that *Aquilegia* is an unusually favorable genus for the investigation of genetic problems. Some of its advantages are the following: (1) The ready hybridization and fertility of the F_1 ; (2) the tendency to mutate, apart from crossing; (3) the existence of spurred and spurless forms, and of forms with and without colored plastids and anthocyanin colors; (4) the heterozygotes can be easily preserved and propagated by dividing the crowns; (5) incidentally, beautiful and interesting garden plants are produced.

SHORTER NOTES

Rhamnus dahurica IN MICHIGAN.—South of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is an extensive area of level ground formerly occupied chiefly by tamarack, black ash, and other hydrophytic trees. The ground water lies always near the surface and parts of the area were originally very swampy. Recent construction of drainage systems has destroyed much of the swamp, which has been put under cultivation, but the rest of the tract is still in forest.

Five years ago a forestry class of the University of Michigan discovered in the heart of the swamp a tree unknown to them. It was submitted to the writer for identification and proved to be *Rhamnus dahurica*. It was then supposed that the tree had been planted by Mr. J. B. Steere, who owns part of the land and had travelled extensively in the Orient. In 1916 Mr. Steere pointed out a second tree to the writer, some two miles from the first one, with a request for its identification. He was surprised to learn its name and disclaimed any knowledge of its origin. Only one tree of the species is known in cultivation in the vicinity, which, since it is a smaller tree, can scarcely be considered as the parent of these two individuals.

The two apparently wild trees are 500 yards or more from any residence, either past or present. One is in the middle of a forest

tract; the other along a small ditch separating two cultivated fields, but it obviously antedates the construction of the ditch. Each is about thirty feet high, with widely spreading branches in healthy condition, and bears a good crop of fruit. Seedlings have not been seen.—H. A. GLEASON.

NEWS ITEMS

According to The Cambridge Tribune of June 28, Harvard University benefits from the will of the late Dr. W. G. Farlow, professor emeritus of cryptogamic botany. All of his books, papers, manuscripts, etc., are left to the University, to constitute the Farlow Reference Library. The sum of \$25,000 is left in trust to his assistant, A. B. Seymour, who will enjoy its income during his life. On his death this fund will be added to a gift of \$100,000 previously made to Harvard and known as the John S. Farlow Memorial Fund. On the death of Professor Farlow's widow, \$100,000 will be given to the University and added to the John S. Farlow Memorial Fund.

In connection with the commencement exercises of the University of Vermont, held in Burlington on June 25, the degree of doctor of letters was conferred upon Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey, formerly director of the College of Agriculture of Cornell University, and the honorary degree of doctor of science was conferred upon Dr. Marshall Avery Howe, curator of the museums of the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. H. N. Whitford, of the School of Forestry of Yale University, has recently returned from Central America, where he was one of a commission detailed by the State Department to investigate the economic resources of the boundary region in dispute between Guatemala and Honduras.